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PRESCRIBED FIRES SCHEDULED NEXT WEEK ON FORT RICHARDSON

FAIRBANKS, Alaska—The Bureau of Land Management Alaska Fire Service is planning to ignite two prescribed fires next week on Fort Richardson for the U.S. Army Alaska.

The burns are scheduled for May 4-7 if prescriptions are met, and the overall goals of the projects are to reduce the risk of potential fires.

During the prescribed fires which include the Three Ranges and the Fort Richardson Complex projects, the public may see smoke in the area and increased vehicle activity. This activity may last for several days and officials advise the public should keep away from the area and watch out for firefighting personnel, vehicles and equipment.

The objectives of the 46-acre Fort Richardson Complex project are to decrease surface fuel loading and manage grass density thereby reducing the possibility of ignition or fire escape during live fire training.

The Three Ranges project consists of 272 acres around the Infantry Squad Battle Course, the Infantry Platoon Battle Course, and Digital Multipurpose Training Range. The objectives of the Three Ranges project include: Reducing fire starts; increasing available training days; improving target visibility; and reducing the chance of catastrophic fires that could threaten local areas.

For more information contact the Fort Richardson Public Affairs Office at 907-384-2019. Information is also available on the AFS web site at <http://fire.ak.blm.gov> under the “Prescribed Fire” section.

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The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Alaska Fire Service provides: wildland fire suppression services for all Department of the Interior and Native Corporation lands in Alaska and assists those entities with other fire management activities, including: guidance and interpretation of fire policy for BLM Alaska; and management of the BLM Alaska aviation program. In addition to fire suppression missions, AFS also conducts prescribed fires in accordance with various partner agreements.